

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 DHA-02 L-01 H-01 IO-06
SP-02 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-01 /051 W
-----152019Z 095130 /45

P R 151912Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7427
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06580

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, UR, US, FR, UK
SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS: LETTER TO ALLIED HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT FROM FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONCERNING THE STRAUSS LETTER ON HESS
TO ALLIED HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, UK BONN GROUP REP HAS
INFORMED US THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN PREFERS
TO REPLY HIMSELF TO STRAUSS' APPEAL. NEVERTHE-
LESS, ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS FEEL ALL THREE REPLIES
SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME LINE. ACTION REQUEST: INFOR-
MATION ON STATUS OF US VERSION OF LETTER AND GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY

1. IN APRIL 15 MEETING OF ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS, UK
REP (EYERS) INFORMED US THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN
HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM CSU LEADER
FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS.

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BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER,

THE 82-YEAR OLD RUDOLF HESS HAS BEEN IMPRISONED FOR 36
YEARS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, THE LAST 10 YEARS OF

WHICH HE HAS SPENT IN NEARLY COMPLETE ISOLATION AT THE ALLIED FORCES MILITARY PRISON IN BERLIN-SPANDAU.

AS YOU KNOW RUDOLF HESS FLEW TO GREAT BRITAIN IN A VOLUNTARY BUT FINALLY VAIN PEACE MISSION ON MAY 10, 1941. HE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS ARRIVAL AND LATER, AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II, TRANSFERRED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL AT NUREMBERG (IMT) FOR FORMAL TRIAL.

THE IMT, ALTHOUGH ACQUITTING HIM OF WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, CHARGED HIM WITH PREPARING AND CARRYING-OUT OFFENSIVE WARS AND SENTENCED HIM TO LIFELONG IMPRISONMENT.

THUS, MR. RUDOLF HESS IS THE ONLY HUMAN BEING IN HISTORY KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFELONG IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE PERSONAL ACCUSATION OF OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE.

HE IS STILL SERVING HIS SENTENCE AT BERLIN-SPANDAU, IN THE MEANTIME UNDER HIGHLY AGGRAVATED CONDITIONS AND SERIOUSLY ILL. I SHOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION, MR. PRESIDENT (SIC) TO THE FACT THAT SINCE THE RELEASE OF HIS LAST FELLOW-PRISONER ON OCTOBER 1, 1966, HE HAS REMAINED THE SOLE INHABITANT OF A PRISON WITH A CAPACITY OF 600 DETAINEES. ONCE A MONTH HE IS PERMITTED TO RECEIVE A HALF HOUR VISIT BY ONE AND ONLY ONE OF HIS RELATIVES. BESIDES HE MAY SEE THE FRENCH ARMY CHAPLAIN FOR ONE HOUR A WEEK. THE REMAINING

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TIME HE IS ALONE, WITHOUT ANYONE TO TALK TO, WITHOUT ANY SOCIAL CONTACTS OR ACTIVITY, WITHOUT RADIO OR TELEVISION. HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE ANY LAWYER NOR TO READ AND DISCUSS HIS BILL OF INDICTMENT OR THE GROUNDS FOR HIS CONVICTION.

MORE AND MORE COMMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION THAT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH RUDOLF HESS SERVES HIS IMPRISONMENT SERIOUSLY INFRINGE UPON HUMAN RIGHTS AS CONTAINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF DECEMBER 10, 1948, AND THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF NOVEMBER 4, 1950.

THE ALLIED FORCES MILITARY PRISON IN BERLIN-SPANDAU IS UNDER JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN, THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, EACH OF WHICH HAS THE FULL POWER OF

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 DHA-02 L-01 H-01 IO-06
SP-02 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-01 /051 W
-----152020Z 095165 /45

P R 151912Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7428
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06580

LIMDIS

VETO ON ALL DECISIONS.

ALL EFFORTS IN THE PAST TO ALLEVIATE HIS SITUATION OR
EVEN TO RELEASE MR. RUDOLF HESS FROM IMPRISONMENT
HAVE FAILED SO FAR. IF MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT IT
HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE VETO OF THE SOVIET SIDE WHICH HAS
PREVENTED PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION. IT IS YOUR
DETERMINED ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT GIVES ME THE
CERTAINTY THAT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT (SIC), WILL APPROACH
THIS CASE WITH PARTICULAR UNDERSTANDING.

I ASK YOU, THEREFORE, TO EXERT ALL YOUR INFLUENCE
EITHER TO ALLEVIATE HIS SITUATION OR TO OBTAIN HIS
RELEASE IN ORDER TO ENABLE MR. RUDOLF HESS TO SPEND
HIS REMAINING DAYS IN DECENCY AND UNDER HUMANE CONDI-
TIONS. IF THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO RESIST SUCH
A SOLUTION I FEEL THAT THE THREE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS
SHOULD TAKE ACCORDING STEPS ON THEIR OWN DURING THE
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PERIODS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MR. HESS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU VERY SOON, I REMAIN

YOURS VERY SINCERELY,

F J STRAUSS

END TEXT

2. EYERS CONTINUED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD, AS REPORTED IN THE FRG PRESS, THAT SIMILAR LETTERS HAD BEEN SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. EYERS SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS TO REPLY HIMSELF TO THE STRAUSS LETTER. HOWEVER, THE BRITISH FEEL THAT THE REPLIES SHOULD BE IN SIMILAR TERMS ALTHOUGH AN IDENTICAL TEXT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. EYERS ADDED THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD WISH TO INFORM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, PERHAPS THROUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE, OF THE CONTENTS OF HIS REPLY BEFORE SENDING IT.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) AND US REP COMMENTED THAT THEY HAD HEARD OF THE STRAUSS LETTERS ONLY THROUGH THE PRESS BUT WOULD TRY TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION ON THEM. BOTH REPS AGREED THAT THE THREE REPLIES SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME GENERAL LINE BUT THAT AN IDENTICAL TEXT WAS NOT NEEDED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT ON WHETHER SUCH A LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND, IF SO, ON HOW THE RESPONSE IS TO BE HANDLED. WE BELIEVE THAT ALLIED EMBASSIES IN BONN SHOULD AT LEAST PREPARE A COORDINATED COLLECTION OF ELEMENTS APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPLIES.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR CRIMES, POLITICAL PRISONERS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, PRISONERS RELEASE, PRISONERS WELFARE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN06580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0083
Format: TEL
From: BONN
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
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Retention: 0
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2798833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUDOLF HESS: LETTER TO ALLIED HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS BEGIN SUMMARY: CONCERNING THE STRAUSS LETTER ON H
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR, US, FR, UK, (CARTER, JIMMY), (HESS, RUDOLF), (STRAUSS, FRANZ JOSEF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbf898a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

